REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 are pending in the application. Claims 15-27 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-7 and 9-14 stand rejected. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Request for Continued Examination

Applicants submit a Request for Continued Examination herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bohy et al. (4,071,341).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify that the first nozzle directs air at the filaments. Further, Applicants have amended claim 1 to indicate the position of the second nozzle as being downstream from said first nozzle.

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Bohy et al. teach an apparatus for producing glass fibers having a spray jet 13 which sprays water or lubricant on the filaments 14 (col. 3, lines 50-57). Bohy et al. teach spray jets 15 which spray the filaments with water (col. 3, lines 23-25).

Nowhere do Bohy et al. teach or suggest an apparatus having a first nozzle which directs air at the filaments, as Applicants' claim.

The Examiner states that in Bohy et al., "It appears that the fluids and the size applicator are simply method/environment of use type limitations. In the event they are relevant, see col. 3, lines 20-62".

As stated above, Bohy et al. do not teach or suggest spraying air on the filaments, as Applicants claim. As cited in *In re Evanega*, 829, F.2d 1110, 4 USPQ2d 1249 (Fed. Cir. 1987):

> The mere absence [from the reference] of an explicit requirement [of the claim] cannot reasonably be construed as an affirmative statement that [the requirement is in the reference].

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that newly amended claim 1 clearly defines over Bohy et al. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 (amended) and contains the limitations thereof. As such, Applicants will not argue these additional limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 102(b) rejection of claims 1-2 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 6-7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Loeffler (4,168,959).

As indicated above, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first nozzle directs air at the filaments. Further, Applicants have amended claim 1 to indicate the position of the second nozzle as being downstream from said first nozzle. Further, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 to add the limitation of the apparatus including "a gathering shoe for gathering said filaments into a strand."

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Loeffler teaches forming glass fibers and collecting the fibers on a moving collection surface. Nowhere does Loeffler teach an apparatus for cooling filaments including a gathering shoe for gathering filaments into a strand, as Applicants claim. Further, Loeffler teaches away from gathering the fibers into a strand, Loeffler specifically teaches forming a fiberglass mat of uniform density (col. 2, lines 36-40).

Claims 2-4 and 6 ultimately depend from claim 1 (amended) and contain the limitations thereof. Claims 9-11 ultimately depend from claim 7 (amended) and

contain the limitations thereof. As such, Applicants will not argue these additional limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7 and 9-11 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7, 9-10 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Clocksin et al. (5,955,011).

As indicated above, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first nozzle directs air at the filaments. Further, Applicants have amended claim 1 to indicate the position of the second nozzle as being downstream from said first nozzle. Further, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 to add the limitation of the apparatus including "a gathering shoe for gathering said filaments into a strand."

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Clocksin et al. teach an apparatus for forming microfibers. Filaments are pulled from a melter by pull rolls. After passing through the pull rolls the continuous filaments are introduced into the flames of the flame attenuation burners which form fine fibers which are carried by combustion gases into the forming tubes. A fiber collection drum rotates as is the primary fine fiber collection surface. The fibers are delivered from the collection surface of the drum to a conveying system for packing or further processing (col. 5, lines 13-56).

Nowhere do Clocksin et al. teach an apparatus for cooling filaments including a gathering shoe for gathering filaments into a strand, as Applicants claim. Further, Clocksin et al. teach away from gathering the fibers into a strand, Clocksin et al. specifically teach forming microfibers (7 microns or less) which are collected by a fiber collection drum for subsequent packaging or processing (col. 5, lines 33-63).

Claims 4 and 5 ultimately depend from claim 1 (amended) and contain the limitations thereof. Claims 9-10 and 12-14 ultimately depend from claim 7 (amended) and contain the limitations thereof. As such, Applicants will not argue these

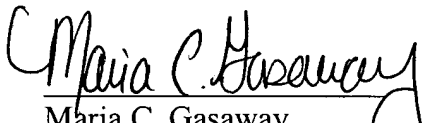
additional limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7 and 9-11 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1-7 and 9-14 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of all claims at an early date is solicited. If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

Applicants authorize any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,



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